

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for providing a hot key corresponding to a particular function in a computer system, the computer system having a graphical user interface (GUI), the particular function for a context, the method comprising the steps of:

integrating a hot key configuring function into the GUI such that a user can access the hot key configuring function from the context; and

allowing a user to utilize the hot key configuring function in the context to map the hot key to the particular function.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

accounting for ambiguities, if any, between the hot key and a pre-existing hot key.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the context includes a plurality of items in the GUI, one of the plurality of items corresponding to the particular function, wherein the computer system includes a mouse, and wherein hot key configuring function integrating step further includes the steps of:

determining the plurality of items selectable in the context; and

providing a mechanism for mapping at least one of the plurality of items to the hot key from the context.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the hot key configuring function integrating step further includes the step of:

providing means for accounting for ambiguities, if any, between the hot key and a pre-existing hot key.

5           5.       The method of claim 1 wherein the user allowing step further includes the steps of:

allowing the user to select a key combination for the hot key.

6.       The method of claim 5 wherein the key combination includes a plurality of keys.

10           7.       The method of claim 5 wherein the key combination selecting step further includes the step of:

performing a pointing device action on a portion of the item.

15           8.       The method of claim 7 wherein the pointing device action includes clicking on a portion of a text of the item and wherein the portion of the text is assigned as a portion of the hot key.

20           9.       The method of claim 8 wherein the hot portion of the text is assigned as at least a portion of the hot key for the item.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein the computer system further includes a pointing device, wherein the context include a feature corresponding to the particular function and wherein the user allowing step further includes the steps of:

allowing the user to hover the pointing device over the feature to indicate the particular function to which the hot key is to be mapped;

allowing the user to select a key combination as the hot key.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the user allowing function further includes the steps of:

mapping the key combination to the particular function.

12. A computer-readable medium including a program for providing a hot key corresponding to a particular function in a computer system, the computer system having a graphical user interface (GUI), the particular function for a context, the program including instructions for:

integrating a hot key configuring function into the GUI such that a user can access the hot key configuring function from the context; and

allowing a user to utilize the hot key configuring function in the context to map the hot key to the particular function.

13. The computer-readable medium of claim 12 wherein the program further includes instructions for:

accounting for ambiguities, if any, between the hot key and a pre-existing hot key.

14. The computer-readable medium of claim 12 wherein the context includes a plurality of items in the GUI, one of the plurality of items corresponding to the particular function, wherein the computer system includes a mouse, and wherein hot key configuring function integrating instructions further includes instructions for:

5           determining the plurality of items selectable in the context; and  
          providing a mechanism for mapping at least one of the plurality of items to the hot key from the context.

15. The computer-readable medium of claim 14 wherein the hot key configuring  
10 function integrating instructions further includes instructions for:

          providing means for accounting for ambiguities, if any, between the hot key and a pre-existing hot key.

16. The computer-readable medium of claim 12 wherein the user allowing  
15 instructions further includes instructions for:

          allowing the user to select a key combination for the hot key.

17. The computer-readable medium of claim 16 wherein the key combination  
selecting instructions further includes instructions for:

20           performing a pointing device action on a portion of the item.

18. The computer-readable medium of claim 17 wherein the pointing device action includes clicking on a portion of a text of the item and wherein the portion of the text is assigned as a portion of the hot key.

5 19. The computer-readable medium of claim 18 wherein the hot portion of the text is assigned as at least a portion of the hot key for the item.

20. The computer-readable medium of claim 16 wherein the key combination includes a plurality of keys.

10 21. The computer-readable medium of claim 12 wherein the computer system further includes a pointing device, wherein the context include a feature corresponding to the particular function and wherein the user allowing instructions further includes instructions for:

15 allowing the user to hover the pointing device over the feature to indicate the particular function to which the hot key is to be mapped;

allowing the user to select a key combination as the hot key.

22. The computer-readable medium of claim 21 wherein the user allowing instructions further includes instructions for:

20 mapping the key combination to the particular function.

23. A computer system comprising:

an application providing a context and having a particular function available therein;  
a graphical user interface (GUI); and

a hot key configuring function integrated into the GUI such that a user can access the  
hot key configuring function from the context, the integrated hot key configuring function  
5 allowing a user to utilize the hot key configuring function in the context to map the hot key  
to the particular function.

24. The computer system of claim 23 wherein the integrated hot key configuring  
function further accounts for ambiguities, if any, between the hot key and a pre-existing hot  
10 key.

25. The computer system of claim 23 wherein the context includes a plurality of  
items in the GUI, one of the plurality of items corresponding to the particular function,  
wherein the computer system includes a mouse, and wherein hot key configuring function  
15 further determines the plurality of items selectable in the context and provides a mechanism  
for mapping at least one of the plurality of buttons to the hot key from the context.

26. The computer system of claim 25 wherein the hot key configuring function  
further includes means for accounting for ambiguities, if any, between the hot key and a pre-  
20 existing hot key.

27. The computer system of claim 23 wherein the hot key configuring function  
further allows the user to select a key combination for the hot key.

28. The computer system of claim 27 wherein the key combination includes a plurality of keys.

29. The computer system of claim 26 wherein the hot key configuring function allows the user to select the key combination by performing a pointing device action on a portion of the item.

30. The computer system of claim 29 wherein the pointing device action includes clicking on a portion of a text of the item and wherein the portion of the text is assigned as a portion of the hot key.

31. The computer system of claim 30 wherein the hot portion of the text is assigned as at least a portion of the hot key for the item.

32. The computer system of claim 26 wherein the computer system further includes a pointing device, wherein the context include a feature corresponding to the particular function and wherein the hot key configuring function further allows the user to hover the pointing device over the feature to indicate the particular function to which the hot key is to be mapped;

allowing the user to select a key combination as the hot key.

33. The computer system of claim 32 wherein the hot key configuring function further maps the key combination to the particular function.